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INCOMING TELEGRAM Department of State

EXCISE

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S E C R E T SAIGON 1083

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EXDIS

REF : SAIGON 899

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY Sean J. Joubert DATE 10/7/81
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

1. [] TOLD EMBOFF JULY 14 THAT CENTRAL ELECTION COUNCIL COMPLETED REVIEW OF COMPLAINTS AGAINST PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES AFTERNOON JULY 13. [] NOW CHARGED WITH DRAFTING REPORT ON BEHALF OF COUNCIL FOR TRANSMITTAL TO NATIONAL ASSEMBLY.
2. IN REVERSAL OF VIEW REPORTED REFTEL, [] INDICATED THAT COUNCIL WOULD RECOMMEND DISQUALIFICATION OF MINH'S SLATE ON

PAGE 2 RUMJIR 1083 S E C R E T
 GROUNDS THAT HIS RUNNING-MATE TRAN NGOC LIENG ONCE HELD FRENCH CITIZENSHIP. REVERTING TO ARGUMENT USED IN EARLIER CONVERSATION, [] SAID THAT BECAUSE LIENG ONCE HELD FRENCH CITIZENSHIP, HIS VIETNAMESE NATIONALITY CANNOT BE REGARDED AS CONTINUOUS FROM BIRTH AS REQUIRED BY CONSTITUTION AND ELECTION LAW. [] CONCLUDED BY SAYING HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT NAOCONAL ASSEMBLY WOULD DISQUALIFY LISTS OF GENERAL MINH AND AU TRUONG THANH.

3. COMMENT: DEGREE TO WHICH GVN HAS INFLUENCED COUNCIL'S AND PARTICULARLY []'S, VIEWS ON MINH CASE DIFFICULT TO ASSESS. HOWEVER, [] HAS APPARENTLY BEEN IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE DURING THE COUNCIL'S DELIBERATIONS AND, IN FACT, CANCELLED JULY 13 APPOINTMENT WITH EMBOFF AT LAST MINUTE IN ORDER TO MEET WITH PM'S CHEF DE CABINET.

BUNKER
BT

NOTE: ADVANCE COPY TO S/S-O 1:17 P.M., 7-14-67.
PASSED WHITE HOUSE AT 2:20 P.M., 7-14-67.

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